

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

As an initial matter, the Examiner has failed to consider German Patent 1,513,765 because the Examiner alleges that the Information Disclosure Statement fails to include a concise explanation of the relevance of this reference. However, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to a Foreign Search Report, which cites the German references as in "A" type reference. An "A" type reference is a reference which is of general background to the invention. Because a Foreign Search Report indicating the degree of relevance of the German reference was submitted with the prior Information Disclosure Statement, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider this reference. Accordingly, Applicants are submitting an additional copy of the PTO-1449 Form which was previously submitted. Applicants request that the Examiner return an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form to the undersigned attorney.

By way of the foregoing amendments to the drawings, Figures 1 and 2 have been amended. In particular, a "PRIOR ART" legend has been added to both Figures 1 and 2. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is respectfully requested.

By way of the foregoing amendments, claim 8 has been amended and new claim 9 has been added to the application.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. As a result, Claim 8 has been amended to remove the minor informality.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant's admitted Prior Art (APA).

The disclosed embodiment of the present invention pertains to a horizontal-axis electrical machine which includes a casing reinforced by casing ribs. The casing is subdivided into a bottom casing section and a removable top casing section. The casing includes a laminated stator core which is braced in bearing rings. The bearing rings are arranged perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the machine and are separated apart from one another and are resiliently connected at a plurality of points of their outer circumference to the bottom casing section by means of fastening parts. Between the laminated stator core or the bearing rings and the bottom casing section, there are arranged fixedly adjusted securing means, which during transportation of the machine, limit the axial relative movement between the laminated stator core or the bearing rings in the bottom casing section, and during operation ensure a free expansion of the warmer laminated stator core with respect to the colder casing. These features are defined in independent Claim 1.

As described in the background of the invention, a problem existed in prior art electrical machines which use transport arresting screw joints. Transport arresting screw joints have been used to avoid high mechanical stresses due to considerable acceleration of forces which can occur between a laminated stator core and the casing. While the transport arresting screw joints solve this particular problem, they have a disadvantage in that after the machine has been set up and before it is in operation, the transport arresting screw

joins have to be unscrewed or loosened so that a clearance is created between the screws in the casing ribs in order for the laminated stator core to freely expand in relation to the housing.

The present invention solves this problem by providing a number of "fixedly adjusted securing means which ... limited the axial relative movement ... and during operation ensure a free expansion ...". Thus, the claimed solution needs no unscrewing or loosening of the securing means. In contrary, APA has transport arresting screwed joints 28, 29 only, which are not able to ensure a free expansion of the stator core 11 with respect to the casing 14, 15, 16 during operation. To meet this goal, the transport arresting screwed joints 28, 29 could not be fixedly adjusted and have to be unscrewed or loosened which procedure is cost intensive and time consuming especially for machines, which are sent with complete housings. Therefore, APA does not disclose the patentable features of independent Claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections over APA is respectfully requested.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the machine of independent Claim 1, and the claims depending therefrom, is patentably distinguishable over the applied disclosure. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with the application, or should the Examiner believe a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that she be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 26, 2002